

## **Governor Schweitzer Announces Tuss and de Yong will Administer WIRED Grant**

(HELENA) – Governor Brian Schweitzer today announced that Paul Tuss of Havre and Adam de Yong of Helena will initially administer the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant that Montana received in February. Permanent positions will be offered within the year.

The \$15 million grant is set up to spur the evolution of Montana's workforce through the creation of an innovative biolubricant and bioproduct industry in eastern and central Montana. Such industry could include oilseed products, biodiesel and ethanol.

"Economic development in eastern and central Montana is a priority," said Governor Schweitzer. "This \$15 million grant will help get dollars on the ground to help revitalize the economy with energy development while adding value to Montana's agricultural products."

Paul Tuss, Havre – Tuss will serve as the WIRED Project Director for a startup period of 90 days. Tuss is the Executive Director of the Bear Paw Development Corporation, which specializes in regional economic and community development. He is the past President of the Montana Economic Developers Association, a member of the Montana Economic Development Advisory Council and a member of the Small Business Development Center Advisory Council. Tuss received a bachelor's degree from the University of Montana. He will be paid \$12,500 for the 90 day contract and will retain his position at Bear Paw.

Adam de Yong, Helena – de Yong will serve in a temporary position as the Administrative Officer. He most recently served as an Economic Development Specialist in the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Prior to that de Yong worked as an independent business consultant on multiple business development/research projects. He has also worked for a venture capital firm. de Yong graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management, Marketing, and International Business. He grew up in Kalispell, Montana on a small family farm and graduated from Flathead High School. de Yong will be paid \$45,000 annually.